

# **WILLIAM S. MCKERSIE, PhD**

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## **PROFILE**

Senior educational leader skilled in promoting excellence in elementary and secondary education to ensure success for all students. Known for leading collaboration among school boards and committees, teacher unions, teachers, principals, community leaders, business leaders, parents and students in urban and suburban communities. Seasoned team leader with exceptional policy, political, management, communication and budget oversight skills.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** **2008-Present** **Archdiocese of Boston, Braintree, MA**

- Provide strategic direction and service to promote academic excellence for all 122 elementary and secondary schools (serving 42,000 students) within the Archdiocese of Boston. Priorities include adoption of Massachusetts Common Core, aligned curriculum frameworks and instructional plans; technology integration; evidence-based decision making; comprehensive, multiple measure system for tracking school and student achievement and growth; multi-faceted professional development program for principals and teachers; and hiring and evaluation of principals.

### **PEER REVIEWER, RACE TO THE TOP GRANT COMPETITION** **2010** **United States Department of Education, Washington, DC**

- Served as one of 70 nationally-selected peer reviewers for the first and second rounds of the Race to the Top Grant Competition, 2010. Selected to chair state finalist interviews in both rounds.

### **ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS** **2004-2008** **Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA**

- Directed a 17-member division dedicated to helping alumni and friends of the Ed School “give through” Harvard to have far-reaching impact on educational research, leadership, and policymaking. Secured over \$30 million dollars in gifts and pledges. Captured the school’s largest gift in history (\$12 million), two professorships (\$3 million apiece), and major financial aid support (\$4.2 million). Oversaw an annual budget of nearly \$2 million. Member of Dean’s Cabinet.

### **DIRECTOR, HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE** **2002-2004** **Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Schools, Cleveland Heights, OH**

- Directed transformation of 2,200 student urban high school into five small schools. Process involved over 80 individuals—board members, superintendent, district administrators, principals, teacher leaders, teachers, union officials, students, parents and community members. Cleveland Heights High was one of 20 urban high schools in Ohio in a statewide initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with the KnowledgeWorks Foundation.

### **SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER FOR EDUCATION** **1997-2002** **The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland, OH**

- Directed all K-12 and higher education leadership and grant making. Awarded over \$27 million in grants. Worked with public and private board to develop and implement education strategy focused on public school reform in Greater Cleveland. Supported strategic level change in Catholic schools. Collaborated with school district, teachers union, nonprofit, civic, municipal, and business leaders to establish school reform priorities and identify philanthropic support.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**1994-1995**

**The University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

- "Critical Issues in Education: Redesigning Urban Education Systems." Co-designed and co-led course with Professor Kenneth K. Wong, 1994 and 1995.

**EDUCATION POLICY CONSULTANT**, Chicago, IL

**1990-1993**

- Education Commission of the States (Denver, CO); Recruiting New Teachers (Cambridge, MA); The Joyce Foundation; The Atlantic Philanthropic Service Company (NY, NY); John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (Chicago, IL); Illinois State Board of Education (Chicago, IL).

**LEAD EDUCATION STAFF**

**1986-1990**

**Senior Program Officer** (1989-90), **Program Officer** (1986-89)

**The Joyce Foundation**, Chicago, IL

- Directed all K-12 and higher education leadership and grant making. Awarded over \$13 million to urban public school reform initiatives and private colleges across the Midwest, as well as nearly \$1 million to urban Catholic schools. Worked with board to develop and implement Joyce's first-ever comprehensive grant making strategy in education, with the aim to advance public school reform. Collaborated with nonprofit, district, teacher union, business, foundation, municipal, civic and community leaders in a major city-wide movement to reform the Chicago schools through the design, passage, implementation and evaluation of the 1988 Chicago School Reform Act (an Illinois Statute that aggressively decentralized the Chicago public schools). Served as staff director for the School Board Nominating Commission (at Mayor Daley's request).

**FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATOR**

**1981-1985**

**Northfield Mount Hermon School**, Northfield, MA

- Admissions Officer, Dorm Head, Coordinator of Minority Concerns Project, English and Psychology Teacher (Summer School), Girls Basketball Coach, Boys Soccer Coach.

**EDUCATION AND LICENSURE**

- **Ph.D.**, The University of Chicago, Department of Education, Chicago, IL, 1997. Dissertation: *Strategic Philanthropy & Local Public Policy: Lessons from Chicago School Reform, 1987-1993*.
- **Ed.M.**, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, 1986. Concentration: Administration, Planning & Social Policy.
- **BA**, Tufts University, Medford, MA, 1981. Major: Social Psychology, Cum Laude
- **Massachusetts Administrator Licensure: Initial Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent (All Levels). License #: 457596.** Expires January 2017.

**SELECTED ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- Board of Directors, Chair Education Committee, Lowell Catholic High School, Lowell, MA. 2008-present.
- Critical Friend, Teachers Union Reform Network. Organization of AFT and NEA local presidents focused on reforming teacher unions and public education. 1998-2008.
- Member, National Advisory Panel of the Carnegie Corporation of New York's "Teachers for a New Era Initiative." 2001-2003.
- Member, Blue Ribbon Commission for Restructuring Ohio Department of Education, Columbus, OH. 1998-1999.

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

**FC Greater Boston BOLTS**, Boston, MA.

**2006-2010**

Director, Junior Academy. For children ages 5-9. Recruited to lead Academy by John Kerr, Jr., now Duke University Men's Varsity Coach. Have National Youth License ("Y") through USSF.

### PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Sine 1986, published and presented widely on public school reform and the role of foundations and nonprofit educational agencies.

#### Selected Publications

- "Lessons for the Future of Philanthropy: Local Foundations and Urban School Reform." (Co-Author with A. Markward.) *Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector in a Changing America*. C.T. Clotfelter and T. Ehrlich (Eds.). Indiana University Press (An American Assembly, Columbia University Publication). 1999.
- "Local Philanthropy Matters: Pressing Issues for Research and Practice." *Philanthropic Foundations: New Scholarship, New Possibilities*. E. Condliffe Lagemann (Ed.). Indiana University Press. 1999.
- "Fostering Community Participation to Influence Educational Policy: Lessons from the Woods Fund of Chicago, 1987-1993." *Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, vol. 26, no. 1, 11-26, March 1997.
- "Philanthropic Persistence: Chicago Foundations & public school Reform." *Advances in Educational Policy*, K. Wong (Ed.). JAI Press, Greenwich, CT., 1996.
- "Philanthropy and Systemic Reform: Finding a Cross-Sector Blend of Risk-Taking and Political Will." *Education Week*, May 4, 1994, pp. 48 & 34. (Co-Author with Robert Palaich.)
- *State Policies to Improve the Teacher Workforce*, Report by Recruiting New Teachers, Inc. and The National Conference of State Legislatures, Fall 1993. (Unlisted Co-Author.)
- "Philanthropy's Paradox: Chicago School Reform." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* (Journal of the American Educational Research Association), Summer 1993.
- "Seeds of Dignity: A Rationale for Multicultural Curriculum." *Independent School*, Fall, 1986.

### PERSONAL

Bill and his spouse, Katherine O'Meara McKersie, have a four year old daughter (Riona); and Bill has two boys (Liam, age 15, and Max, age 11). Bill and Katherine are active parishioners at St. Brigid Church in Lexington, MA.